ACFID Code of Conduct Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the Code of Conduct Committee (CCC) each year is a two day meeting to consider 'big picture' issues as well as the Committee's normal agenda.

The national and international context and the future of self-regulation

The CCC had guest presentations from ACFID CEO Marc Purcell, as well as representatives of the Queensland University of Technology, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and the Community Council for Australia. These presentations provided an overview of the current operating landscape for the sector and the ACFID membership, and current and emerging issues of self-regulation in the charitable sector.

Complaints handling

The Committee had a presentation on Alternative Dispute Resolution - its purpose, scope and common approaches. Leading on from this presentation the CCC discussed the ACFID Code of Conduct complaints handling process and policy. The Committee agreed that some areas of the current policy and process need review. An issues paper on complaints handling will be prepared for discussion at the next CCC meeting in May.

Transition to the revised Code

The CCC discussed the Code Secretariat's plans for the transition to the revised Code of Conduct, which will be launched on **June 1** this year. The CCC approved the Code Secretariat's proposed changes to policies and processes to align with the new Code, and endorsed the Code transition plan. The CCC agreed on the importance of the transition process being clearly communicated to members so that the compliance obligations of the revised Code are clear. The CCC also briefly discussed the proposed communication plan for the revised Code, and noted the need for a variety of tools and methods to assist members with their knowledge of and compliance with the revised Code.

Annual performance review

The CCC discussed the outcome of their annual performance review. The CCC noted the importance of a Committee that is representative of the breadth and diversity of the ACFID membership, and the need to ensure that there is 'space' for viewpoints outside the mainstream on the issues discussed. To keep ACFID members informed of the work of the CCC, the Committee agreed to produce a Communique after each meeting, to be placed in the ACFID Member Bulletin with a link to the CCC page of the ACFID website.

CCC Governance

The CCC elected members for each of its standing committees for the year, including the Compliance Standing Committee, the Emergency Response Standing Committee, the Financial Review Standing Committee and the Membership Admissions Committee. The CCC also discussed the possible addition of a fourth specialist appointment to the CCC, which is now available in a revision to the CCC Terms of Reference approved last year. The CCC, with the support of the Code Secretariat agreed to investigate possible options for the fourth specialist appointment, including specialist skills in humanitarian practice, programs and partnerships

Planning for FY 17/18

The CCC discussed the upcoming priorities for FY17/18. The CCC noted that the implementation of the revised code and assisting members with this transition will remain a high priority for the Code Secretariat in FY17/18. The CCC discussed other emerging and continuing priorities which may include the ethical use of images and messages, complaints and whistleblowing, annual reporting, ongoing code promotion, third party fundraising, and alignment of the Code with other regulatory frameworks both nationally and internationally.

The next CCC meeting will be held on **19 May 2017**.

Information about the Code of Conduct Committee including Committee members and the Terms of Reference can be found on the ACFID Website.

For more information about the Code of Conduct Committee, contact ACFID Standards and Code Lead Jocelyn Condon on (02) 8123 2222 or jcondon@acfid.asn.au